Performance of hockey and football players

5261. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any formalised structure exists to assess the performance of young football and hockey players during the National trophy events like the Subroto Cup and Junior Nehru Cup;

(b) the arrangements for proper follow-up and training programmes thereafter for the players; and

(c) whether there are plans to extend astro-turf facilities for coaching and training of junior hockey players at Kolkata, other than the existing one at Salt Lake Stadium ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society (SMSES) has set up a formalised structure which not only conducts the tournament but also ensures follow-up of selected players with regard to their recruitment in IAF, award of Government scholarship by Netaji Subhash Institute of Sports (NSNIS), Patiala/Sports Authority of India (SAI) and spotting of talents by other agencies. The Society constitutes a three member Selection Committee to assess the young footballers comprising of representative of All India Football Federation, a representative of Sports Authority of India, and a representative of Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society. The Selection Committee selects outstanding players from junior and sub-junior players and forwards their names to NIS, Patiala. The Society also awards scholarship @ Rs.2500/- per annum to selected players.

As regards Hockey, it is stated that there is no such tournament known as Junior Nehru Cup. However, Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society (JNHTS) organises 5 tournaments every year in Delhi *viz*; Sub-junior (Boys under-15), Junior (Boys under-17), Girls (under-17), Championship Colleges Hockey Tournament and Main Open Tournament for men. JNHTS also has a formalised structure to assess the performance of players during the junior hockey tournaments. For this purpose, there is a Committee headed by an Olympian, representative from Sports Authority of India (SAI), representative from Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) and two nominees from JNHTS.

Arrangements for proper follow-up and training of the sportspersons are done by the respective societies. The talent identified from these tournaments are eligible for national level scholarships under the Scholarship Scheme of the Government of India. Scholarship is given subject to the condition that identified talent is not under any approved training scheme of SAI or State Government. As such, the identified talent is also taken by SAI for training under its various schemes.

(c) No, Sir.